



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Final Environmental Advisory Board

Monday, November 4, 2019

6:00 PM

CITY HALL ROOM 244

1. Call to Order

Chair Driest called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present 4 - Chair Edie Driest, Vice Chair Lauri Fern, Board Member Carolann Palm-Abramoff, and Board Member Tina Powell

Absent 3 - Board Member Allain Hale, Board Member Verna Blaine, and Board Member Lora Ross

Also Present:

Engineering Division Manager Jerry Traverso, and Recording Secretary Susan Hale.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Approval of Minutes

- A. [19-1315](#) Approval of Minutes for the October 7, 2019 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Board Member Palm-Abramoff, seconded by Board Member Fern, to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

6. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

7. New Business

- A. [19-0841](#) Future Land Use Map Memorandum From Neighborhood Development Services

Board Member Palm-Abramoff will provide information at the next meeting.

B. [19-0842](#) Discussion of other Governments' Departments of Natural Resources

New Board Member Tina Powell introduced herself and provided background information.

Chair Driest provided an overview of the item.

Board Member Powell provided an overview of Charlotte County Parks and Natural Resources Center responsibilities including a focus on large-scale conservation planning and environmental land management.

Discussion ensued regarding a natural resources department oversight, concern with invasive plants taking over Warm Mineral Springs, recommending a natural resource department, staffing needs, and resources dedicated to environmental concerns and issues.

Mr. Traverso spoke to the City's environmental specialist and duties, suggested job duties of a higher level position, borrowing job description from Charlotte County, presenting specific position duties, recommending an environmental specialist in 2021 and the process to recommend a new position.

Discussion continued on researching Sarasota County's environmental division, North Port's environmental issues compared to surrounding government entities, to add an environment division as a discussion topic at the Joint Commission Meeting in December, steps to move forward, reviewing Charlotte County positions and responsibilities for discussion, inviting someone from Sarasota County to a Board meeting.

There was a consensus to direct Board Member Palm-Abramoff to invite Stevie Freeman from City of Sarasota to a future meeting.

C. [19-1122](#) Discussion on Solar Power/Panels

Board Member Palm-Abramoff introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding "Ready for 100", requiring new construction to be solar-ready, and electrical municipal automobiles.

Mr. Traverso spoke to charging stations at every new City building, solar-covered parking lots, a "Solar Now" project initiative, and agreement details for charging stations.

Discussion continued on inviting other professionals to speak on "Ready for 100" for January.

There was a consensus to schedule someone to speak at the January Board Meeting regarding "Ready for 100".

8. Updates**A. [19-0579](#)** Update on Past Board Directives

Chair Driest introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding clarification from City Manager Lear addressing City's use of tree funds to purchase land to grow trees, and clarification on how \$50,000 is allocated

and future plans for those funds.

There was a consensus to direct Mr. Traverso to ask the City Manager for further explanation of how the \$50,000 tree funds are to be used.

Discussion continued regarding a quarterly profit and loss report for the Tree Fund, clarifying Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) Chapter 45-13(1) purchasing property for tree preservation, public comment last meeting regarding toxic leakage from pipe liner, and discussion of drainage pipe liner article.

Mr. Traverso reported checking the complaint next day, their findings, continued investigation, and seven other residences were inspected.

Discussion ensued regarding older areas of the City where the liner is used.

B. [19-0580](#)

Environmentally Related Commission Agenda Items

Following an inquiry, Mr. Traverso spoke to locations of new pipes, how runoff treated, and Commission not currently discussing environmental concerns.

There was a consensus to direct Mr. Traverso to obtain any Commission discussions regarding environmental issues and report back to the board.

9. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items included guest speakers from Sarasota County to discuss the county's environmental/natural resources department and renewable energy, a discussion regarding management of exotic plants on public land, an update regarding Heron Creek Country Club's lack of wildlife management, and overgrowth along the Warm Mineral Springs creek.

Mr. Traverso spoke to a report regarding creek clearing and reclaiming manatees near Warm Mineral Springs and the Warm Mineral Springs Master Plan.

Discussion ensued pertaining to managing acquired land.

Additional agenda items included a discussion regarding nitrogen in drinking water and requesting that Ms. Wong provide a map where water testing is done to be forwarded to Board Members, inviting someone from Utility Department to speak on City water and sewer expansion, providing Charlotte County environmental positions and responsibilities for discussion next month, and "Ready for 100."

There was a consensus to direct Mr. Traverso to provide an update pertaining to the Heron Creek Golf and Country Club wildlife management for gopher tortoises and scrub jays.

There was a consensus to request a copy of the Warm Mineral Springs Master Plan.

There was a consensus to include an agenda item to discuss acquiring land for parks to preserve trees and long-term management thereof for the Joint Meeting with Commission in December.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

Chair Driest adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

By: _____
Edie Driest, Chair

Minutes approved on the ___ day of _____, 2019.